

**Wilkes Library Advisory Board
Minutes of the November 1,2022 Meeting**

Members present: Jane Blackburn, Appalachian Regional Library Director; Jennifer Chatham; Bill Davis; Camilla Day; Brenda Dobbins; Tammy Holston, Appalachian Regional Library financial officer; Arnold Lakey; Suzanne Moore, Wilkes County Librarian; Ola Norman, Traphill Friends of the Library president; Beth Foster Tharrington; and Martha Townes

Members Absent: Glenda Adams, Wilkes Friends of the Library president; and Casey Joe Johnson, Wilkes County Commissioner

The meeting was **called to order** by Chairman Arnold Lakey at 3:30 pm, in the Wilkes Friends of the Library room.

The **agenda** was approved, by acclamation, with an addition by Arnold Lakey relative to the board membership and date and time of meetings.

Minutes of the September 6, 2022, meeting were approved with corrections. Suzanne Moore will send corrected copies to the board members.

There was no **correspondence nor communications**.

Old Business included the necessity of appointing two members of the advisory board to the endowment board. Bill Davis suggested that Gwen Minton continue an additional year, until she is replaced. Arnold Lakey requested board permission to inquire if Gwen is willing to return to the board. One additional member is still needed.

Suzanne Moore reviewed the current state of library improvements. Arnold Lakey and Suzanne Moore are now the ad hoc committee to review plans and allocations. Suzanne wants a representative from the endowment board as well. Funding for renovations will come from the Friends of the Library, the Herring Foundation and the Library Endowment. After taking photographs of the existing structure, Jim Lyle from the Taupe Gallery will consult on the appearance. He will soon begin renderings. Two board members are needed to work on the renovations committee. Bill Davis made a motion that Arnold Lakey be a member of the committee. Arnold commented that the board would get someone to which Bill responded that the motion be changed to read that the Wilkes Advisory Board chairman would appoint someone to complete the membership on the library renovation committee. He also said that the plan should start with the committee and the members should be appointed now. Suzanne contributed that she had thought that the whole board would be advisors.

The **Librarian's report** was presented by Suzanne Moore who reported that December 13 is the date of the Library Open House. This will include a reception for retiring regional director, Jane Blackburn. The Friends of the Library will provide decorations and refreshments from 10 am – 2 pm. The Wilkes Acoustic Folk Society will entertain at 5:30 p.m. The library staff are excited to create a float for North Wilkesboro's holiday parade. The library will also be participating at North Wilkesboro's "Light Up Downtown" event. The new book vending machine sits across from the reception desk to provide 100 books for 100 tokens. The first Downtown Read-a-Around Story Walk book featured is [The Poppy Lady](#). Children who complete the story walk will receive a token for a free book and a poppy. The Veterans' Project first print edition is almost ready. Bill Davis asked, "How did you choose your people?" To which

Suzanne replied that requests were sent out and the VFW coffee club encouraged veterans to contribute their stories. Pat Brooks created the Heritage Museum book and will also help us. Suzanne commented that everywhere she goes she is collecting stories and has met with very enthusiastic reception. People want to get involved. Requests were also published in the newspaper and online on the library website. The county commissioners also have stories to share, mentioned at several of their meetings. Saturday, November 5, from 11 am to 1 pm, VFW Post 1142 will hold the Wilkes County Marathon Jam. There will be Quilts of Honor presented to two widows, an EMS worker, retired fire chief, two veteran chaplains, and a Korean War veteran. Money is being collected to support the NC Fisher House at Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg. These have great programs coming up to honor veterans and service members.

Regional Librarian, Jane Blackburn reported that Watauga Library is not fully staffed, whereas Wilkes is. Traphill branch manager, Linda Pranger, is leaving, but Deb Beckel, currently our adult librarian, will begin work at Traphill. The Appalachian Regional Library Board is continuing its search for Jane's replacement.

Because of the change in dates of the regional board meetings, the financial statements are not available for review. State funds are being spent on various approved projects. Bonus checks, from \$6,000 the regional board set aside, will be sent to the staff members of all three libraries later this month. A new computer for the new director is needed. Jane commented that we would like to spend all the funds this year in view of the audit next year. Two grants have been received for the Watauga County Branch van.

Two additional items were presented for discussion by Arnold Lakey. The Wilkes Advisory Board by-laws call for the board to meet on second Wednesday of the month. The time of the meeting changed last year when a county commissioner was appointed to the board whose schedule did not permit attendance at the previous 10 am time. It was suggested that board meetings return to the second Wednesday of the month. Arnold Lakey will recommend to the county commissioners that the date and time for our meeting return to 10 am, the second Wednesday of each month. He asked if the time needs to be specified. To this, Tammy Holston quoted the by-laws, "time and place to be determined by the chairman."

Bill Davis moved that the next meeting of this board be scheduled for January 11, at 10 am, in the Wilkes Friends of the Library room. Second was by Camilla Day. Arnold Lakey rephrased the motion to read, "At this board meeting, (November 1, 2022, 3:30 pm) the by-laws of the Wilkes Library Advisory Board were reviewed, after which, the membership determined to follow the written by-laws and meet at 10 am, the second Wednesday of each month. He called for any objections and none were voiced. The decision is always subject to adjustment if necessary, he noted. The Wilkes advisory board by-laws are in line with those of the regional board according to Bill Davis. The exception to this is that the local by-laws read that a substitute can attend the regional board meeting and vote for an absent board member but the regional by-laws do not confirm this.

Clarification as to new board members and staggered terms was made. Suzanne Moore informed Sarah Call to hold off on any application currently made for consideration. These persons will be considered for the next opening on the advisory board.

As the meeting drew to a close, Martha Townes asked for introductions to all board members. This was done with a welcome to the board being voiced.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm by motion of Martha Townes, second by Camilla Day, and all members in agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Foster Tharrington, secretary